

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

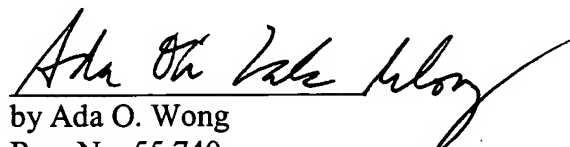
Status of the Claims

Claims 1-26 are pending in this application. In the office action dated May 12, 2005, Examiner rejected claims 1-7, 9, 11, 13-19, 21, and 23-26. Claims 8, 10, 12, 20, and 23 were objected to. More specifically, claims 1-3, 5-7, 13-15, 17-19, 21, and 24-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takane, et al. whereas claims 1-5, 7, 9, 11, 14-17, 19, 21, 23, 25, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Meckstroth. Claims 8, 10, 12, 20, and 22 were objected to as containing allowable subject matter but being dependent on rejected claim bases.

In this amendment, claims 1, 4, 11, 14, 16, 23 have been amended. Claims 3, 7, 8, 15, 19, and 20 have been canceled. Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claims 3, 7, and 8 while Claim 14 has been amended to include the subject matter of claims 15, 19, and 20. As such, Applicant believes Examiner's 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection on the bases of Takane et al. and Meckstroth has been rendered moot.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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